Promotion of sports

*96. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's record in sports is pathetic at international level and the standards of our games have suffered in recent events;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for promotion of all sports including our national game hockey?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The performance of Indian sportspersons in international events has shown some improvement in recent years. India won 54 medals in Asian Games, 2006 against 36 medals in Asian Games 2002, 234 medals in South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, 2006 against 191 medals in SAF Games, 2004 and 1 Gold and 2 Bronze medals in Olympic Games, 2008 against 1 Silver medal in Olympic Games, 2004. In 2008, Indian Men Junior hockey team won Asia Cup (Junior - Men) and Youth Olympic Festival at Australia while Indian Jr. Women Hockey team qualified for the Junior World Cup and got Bronze medal in Asia Cup (Junior- Women). Indian (Senior Men) hockey team also won Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament at Malaysia in 2008.

(c) The National Sports Federations (NSFs) are primarily responsible and accountable for the overall development of various sports disciplines. The Government supplements their efforts by providing financial assistance for preparation of national athletes as per Long Terms Development Plans (LTDPs) approved in consultation with the NSFs concerned and Sports Authority of India (SAI).

The Government provides assistance for conducting national coaching camps; holding of national and international championships/tournaments; foreign competition exposure; engagement of foreign coaches; procurement of sports equipment and consumables, etc. The training infrastructure provided by SAI is also continuously upgraded to provide athletes with the state-of-the-art facilities. In addition, the Government also provides assistance to meritorious sportspersons for customized training under the 'Talet Search & Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

The Government has recently launched a scheme specifically designed to prepare Indian sportspersons for maximizing the medal tally in Commonwealth Games, 2010 (CWG 2010) with a provision of Rs. 678 crores, which covers 17 disciplines. An Action Plan on similar lines has been prepared for remaining disciplines in which India will participate in the Asian Games 2010, which will be held after a month of CWG-2010.

As regards hockey, a Technical Committee has been set up to regularly evaluate and monitor the progress of the players in the Coaching camps and give inputs for a systemated and scientific approach for constant improvement of performance of the players. A reputed foreign coach has also been engaged. The domestic and international hockey calendar has been formulated with the long

term vision for the Olympic 2012, World Cup Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, 2010. Coaching camps are in progress for seniors at Bangalore and juniors at Bhopal under professional guidance with focus on fitness physiological and bio-mechanics. A Data Bank of the players has been prepared. FIH ha also agreed to conduct seminars in India to up-date coaches and umpires with the lates techniques.

Water level in main reservoirs

*97. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water level in main reservoirs across the country has been dipping to a critical-point due to the scanty rains during the current monsoon season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring 81 important reservoirs of the country. As per weekly bulletin issued by CWC on 02.07.2009, the total Live Storage in these 81 reservoirs was 14.318 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) which is about 9% of their total designed live storage capacity of 151.77 BCM, nearly 42% of their storage that existed on corresponding date of last year and nealy 55% of their average storage of last 10 years that existed on the corresponding date.

As per information made available by India Meteorological Department (IMD) for the country as a whole, the country has received rainfall which is deficient/short from normal by about 32% during March-May, 2009 and about 48% during June, 2009. The flow into, and water levels, in the reservoirs would be less because of the scanty rainfall received in the country.

(c) In view of low reservoir levels and delayed monsoon across the country, the Ministry of Water Resources has advised all the State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) conveying that there is an urgent need

- to utilize the available surface water resources prudently and harness the possible ground water resources to tide over any possible shortage.
- to make judicious use of water available from the reservoirs, giving priority to drinking water supply and agriculture as per National Water Policy.
- to work out water budget for every reservoir covering drinking water, agriculture, other uses and evaporation losses.
- to take over the successful exploratory wells drilled by Central Gound Water Board (CGWB) for enhancing water availability.
- to get in touch with the regional offices of CGWB and avail technical assistance in identifying potential sources of ground water to harness them early.